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IRON AGE

MAY 16, 1986

MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT

Honda Goes American

OSHA'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW RULES
AUTOMATION UPGRADES THE FOREMAN'S ROLE
IN PURSUIT OF QUALITY: GRINDING

MAY 16, 1986 VOL. 229, NO. 10

IRON AGE
MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT

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IRON AGE (USPS 269-780) is published 24 times a year by CHILTON COMPANY, Chilton Way, Radnor, PA 19089. Chilton Co. is a division of American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., New York, N.Y. Second Class Postage Paid at Wayne, PA 19087 and additional mailing offices. IRON AGE is sent on a controlled free basis to qualified managers in U.S. metalworking companies. All others: Manufacturing Management edition—$52 one year, $85 Canada/Foreign (24 issues); Metalsproducer edition—$30 one year; $56 Canada/Foreign (12 issues). Single copies, $3.00. Cable Chilton Philadelphia.
Send address changes to IRON AGE, P.O. Box 3017, Wheaton, IL, 60189.

Chilton
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PRICE & PRODUCTION DATA

(Effective April 28,1986)

Steel production by districts, thousands of tons (000 omitted)

	Last Week	Two Weeks Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Northeast Coast	183	184	172	192
Pittsburgh	236	241	237	227
Youngstown	103	105	114	111
Lake Erie	146	163	157	170
Detroit	133	149	147	147
Chicago	505	509	513	496
Midwest	174	170	173	164
Southern	198	205	201	228
Western	93	88	84	88
U.S. Production	1,771	1,814	1,798	1,823

Source: American Iron & Steel Institute

Lake Superior Ore Prices

51.50% Fe Natural delivered lower Lake ports unless otherwise stated. Rail transportation, handling and unloading may be charged to buyer. Coarse ore 80¢ premium.

Pellets (per iron unit natural)	gross-ton 58.0*
Pellets (per iron unit natural)	gross-ton 59.4**
Pellets (per iron unit natural)	gross-ton 72.5-86.9***
Mesabi, regular-unscreened	gross-ton $32.53
Mesabi, non-bessemer	gross-ton $30.03-31.53

*58.0¢—Mineral Services, Inc. as of 8/13/85. **59.4¢—Pickands Mather, 8/1/85, delivered hold of vessel, upper Lake ports. ***72.5¢—U.S. Steel as of 8/16/85. 86.9¢—Oglebay Norton 3/25/82; Hanna Mining and Cleveland-Cliffs, 2/26/82.

STEEL PRODUCTION, COMPOSITE PRICES

(Effective April 28,1986)

U.S. Steel Production	Last Week	Two Weeks Ago	To Date 1986	To Date 1985
Net tons, in thousands	1,771	1,814	29,489	28,385
Capability Utilization Rate	71.6	73.3	71.5	66.3

Composite Prices	This Week	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Finished Steel Base* (¢/lb.—eff. 1/1/86)	24.607	24.607	24.607	27.582
Pig Iron** (Net ton = 2000 lbs.)	$213.00	$213.00	$213.00	$213.00
Scrap No. 1 hvy.*** (Gross ton = 2240 lbs.)	$ 72.83	$ 73.17	$ 73.83	$ 72.83
No. 2 bundles	$ 52.50	$ 52.83	$ 54.50	$ 52.17

Scrap Comparison (Gross Ton)

No. 1 steel, Pittsburgh	$ 72.50	$ 73.50	$ 73.50	$ 77.50
No. 1 steel, Philadelphia	71.50	71.50	73.50	71.50
No. 1 steel, Chicago	74.50	74.50	74.50	69.50
No. 1 bundles, Detroit	62.50	62.50	62.50	66.50
Low Phos., Youngstown	73.50	73.50	73.50	58.50
No. 1 mach'y cast., Pgh	73.50	73.50	73.50	71.50
No. 1 mach'y cast., Phila	93.50	93.50	93.50	93.50
No. 1 mach'y cast., Chi	109.50	109.50	109.50	109.50

*Finished Steel Composite: Weighted index of steel bars, shapes, plates, wire, rails, black pipe, hot and cold rolled sheets and strips.
**Pig Iron Composite: Based on average prices for basic and foundry pig iron at representative producing points within the U.S.
***Steel Scrap Composite: Average of No. 1 hvy. melting steel scrap and No. 2 bundles delivered to consumers at Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Chicago.

NONFERROUS PRICES

(Effective April 28,1986) Prices obtained in trade based on representative tonnages per gross ton delivered to consumer unless otherwise stated.

Primary Metal Prices

(cents per lb.)	current price	last price	date of change
Aluminum (LME)	54.18	51.61	4/28/86
Copper (C)	66.50-71.00	67.00-71.00	4/25/86
Lead	18.75-19.00	18.25-19.00	4/ 9/86
Magnesium Ingot	153.00	148.00	12/ 9/85
Nickel (LME)	180.71	181.71	4/28/86
Zinc	33.00-35.00	32.00-35.00	4/22/86

ALUMINUM: Avg. for last week & previous week. COPPER (C) = cathode. LEAD: common grade. MAGNESIUM: 99.8% pig, delivered. NICKEL: Avg. for last week & previous week. ZINC: high grade.

Antimony, American Laredo, Texas	$2.00
Beryllium-aluminum 5% Be, per lb. contained Be	$236.00
Beryllium-copper, per lb. cont. Be	$144.00
Beryllium 97% powder 200	$197.00
Cadmium, ton lots	$1.00
Calcium, ton lots, crown	$3.92
Chromium, 99.5% electro	$4.62
Cobalt, 99%, cathode	$11.70
Gold per troy oz.	$343.40
Indium, dollars per troy oz.	$2.65
Iridium, dollars per troy oz.	$430.00
Magnesium sticks, 10,000 lbs.	$2.02
Mercury, per 76-lb., f.o.b. N.Y.	$270.00-285.00
Molybdenum, lb. tech. moly oxides, 20 lb. MO can	$3.25
Palladium, per troy oz.	$111.00
Platinum, per troy oz.	$422.00
Rhodium, per troy oz.	$1,150.00
Silver ingots, per troy oz.	$5.045
Titanium sponge, melt grade	$3.40-3.55
Tungsten powder, hyd red.	$9.50-9.85
Vanadium	$6.00
Zirconium sponge	$12.00-17.00

(Per lb. unless otherwise noted)

Straits Tin Price

(U.S. cents per lb. EX-SMELTER, based on daily market in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysian dollars per kilo.)

Apr. 21—262.38
Apr. 22—262.14
Apr. 23—261.85
Apr. 24—260.20
Apr. 25—257.57

Scrap Prices
Brass Mill Scrap

(Cents per lb; over 20,000 lbs. add 1¢ per lb)

	Solids	Turnings
Copper	63	56
Yellow brass	53 1/8	46 1/4
Red brass	57 3/4	49 3/4
Comm. bronze	59 1/2	50 1/2
Mang. bronze	41 3/4	40 1/2
Free cutting rod ends	49	48

Custom Smelters Scrap

(Cents per lb., carload lots, del. refinery)

No. 1 copper wire	59
No. 2 copper wire	51
Light copper	42

Ingot Makers Scrap

(Cents per lb., carload lots, del. refinery)

No. 1 copper wire	55
No. 2 copper wire	47
Light copper	38
No. 1 composition	46
No. 1 comp. turnings	45
Hvy. yellow brass solids	30
Hvy. yellow brass turnings	26
Radiators	34
Aluminum	
New mixed clips	40 — 41
Old sheet	37 — 38
Old cast	37 — 38
Clean dry borings	38 — 39

Dealers' Scrap

(Dealers' buying price f.o.b. New York in cents per pound)

Aluminum

Segregated clippings	29 — 30
Mixed L.C. clips	26 — 28
Old sheets and cast	24 — 25
Borings and turnings	20 — 21
Duraluminum clippings	24 — 25

Copper and Brass

No. 1 copper wire	47 — 48
No. 2 copper wire	39 — 40
Light copper	33 — 34
Radiators	30 — 31
No. 1 composition	39 — 40
No. 1 composition turnings	35 — 36
Cocks and faucets	28 — 29
Clean heavy yellow brass	27 — 28
Brass Pipe	28 — 29
New soft brass clippings	39 — 40

Lead

Heavy soft lead	5 — 7
Whole batteries	1 — 3
Type metal	15 — 17
Electrotype	13 — 14

Nickel

Nickel solids	110 —120
Nickel rod ends	110 —120
Nickel sheets, clips	110 —120
Nickel turnings	25 — 35

Zinc

New zinc clippings	15 — 16
Old diecast zinc	11 — 12

EFFECTIVE APRIL 28, 1986

(Effective April 28, 1986) Prices obtained in trade based on representative tonnages per gross ton delivered to consumer unless otherwise stated. Prices are the opinions of *Iron Age* editors and correspondents, based on contacts with dealers, brokers, generators and users in the industry on the effective date listed above.

Ferrous Scrap Prices

Pittsburgh

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 72.00 to	$ 73.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	62.00 to	63.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	86.00 to	87.00
No. 1 factory bundles (auto)	86.00 to	87.00
No. 2 bundles	46.00 to	47.00
No. 1 busheling	84.00 to	85.00
Machine shop turnings	8.00 to	9.00
Shoveling turnings	43.00 to	44.00
Cast iron borings	42.00 to	43.00
Low phos. punchings plate	96.00 to	97.00
Heavy turnings	62.00 to	63.00
No. 1 RR hvy. melting	81.00 to	82.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	95.00 to	96.00
Scrap rails, random lgth	80.00 to	81.00
RR specialties	95.00 to	96.00
No. 1 machinery cast	73.00 to	74.00
Cupola cast	66.00 to	67.00
Heavy breakable cast	30.00 to	31.00
Stainless		
18-8 bundles and solids	520.00 to	530.00
18-8 turnings	420.00 to	430.00

Chicago

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 74.00 to	$ 75.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	69.00 to	70.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	87.00 to	88.00
No. 1 factory bundles (auto)	87.00 to	88.00
No. 2 dealer bundles	59.00 to	60.00
No. 1 busheling	82.00 to	83.00
Shredder scrap	82.00 to	83.00
Machine shop turnings	31.00 to	32.00
Mixed borings and turnings	32.00 to	33.00
Shoveling turnings	34.00 to	35.00
Cast iron borings	46.00 to	47.00
Low phos. forge crop	99.00 to	100.00
Low phos. punchings plate 1/4 in. and heavier	114.00 to	115.00
Low phos. 2 ft. and under	108.00 to	109.00
No. 1 RR hvy. melting	77.00 to	78.00
Scrap rails random lgth	80.00 to	81.00
Reroller rails	105.00 to	106.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	101.00 to	102.00
RR couplers and knuckles	93.00 to	94.00
RR car axles	108.00 to	109.00
No. 1 machinery cast	109.00 to	110.00
Cupola cast	94.00 to	96.00
Stove plate	99.00 to	100.00
Steel car wheels	92.00 to	93.00
Stainless		
18-8 bundles and solids	495.00 to	505.00
18-8 turnings	405.00 to	415.00
430 bundles and solids	125.00 to	135.00
430 turnings	85.00 to	95.00

Philadelphia

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 70.00 to	$ 73.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	62.00 to	65.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	82.00 to	85.00
No. 2 dealer bundles	50.00 to	53.00
No. 1 busheling	82.00 to	85.00
Shredder scrap	83.00 to	86.00
Machine shop turnings	24.00 to	27.00
Mixed borings and turnings	24.00 to	27.00
Shoveling turnings	39.00 to	42.00
Low phos. 5 ft. and under	75.00 to	78.00
Low phos. 2 ft. punchings	96.00 to	99.00
Electric furnace bundles	87.00 to	90.00
RR specialties	75.00 to	78.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	97.00 to	100.00
Cupola cast	88.00 to	91.00
Heavy breakable cast	53.00 to	56.00
No. 1 machinery cast	92.00 to	95.00

Detroit

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 49.00 to	$ 50.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	48.00 to	49.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	62.00 to	63.00
No. 2 bundles	28.00 to	29.00
No. 1 busheling	61.00 to	62.00
Drop forge flashings	40.00 to	41.00
Machine shop turnings	25.00 to	26.00
Mixed borings and turnings	9.00 to	10.00
Shoveling turnings	25.00 to	26.00
Cast iron borings	18.00 to	19.00
Heavy breakable cast	32.00 to	33.00
Mixed cupola cast	47.00 to	48.00
Automobile cast	70.00 to	71.00
Stainless		
18-8 bundles and solids	480.00 to	490.00
18-8 turnings	345.00 to	355.00
430 bundles and solids	115.00 to	125.00

Youngstown

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 58.00 to	$ 59.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	56.00 to	57.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	74.00 to	75.00
No. 2 dealer bundles	36.00 to	37.00
Machine shop turnings	24.00 to	25.00
Shoveling turnings	24.00 to	25.00
Low phos. plate	73.00 to	74.00
Electric furnace bundles	62.00 to	63.00
Galvanized bundles	60.00 to	61.00

Cleveland

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 56.00 to	$ 57.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	54.00 to	55.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	78.00 to	79.00
No. 1 factory bundles	68.00 to	69.00
No. 2 bundles	33.00 to	34.00
No. 1 busheling	69.00 to	70.00
Machine shop turnings	24.00 to	25.00
Shoveling turnings	24.00 to	25.00
Cast iron borings	21.00 to	22.00
Cut structural & plates, 5 ft. and under	67.00 to	68.00
Cut structural & plates, 2 ft. and under	89.00 to	90.00
Low phos. punchings plate	89.00 to	90.00
Foundry steel, 2 ft. & under	55.00 to	56.00
No. 1 RR hvy. melting	61.00 to	62.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	90.00 to	91.00
Rails, 18 in. and under	92.00 to	93.00
No. 1 machinery cast	78.00 to	79.00
Mixed cast	45.00 to	46.00
Stainless		
18-8 bundles	480.00 to	490.00
18-8 turnings	350.00 to	360.00
430 bundles	120.00 to	130.00

Buffalo

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 53.00 to	$ 54.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	43.00 to	44.00
No. 1 busheling	69.00 to	70.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	69.00 to	70.00
No. 2 bundles	30.00 to	31.00
Machine shop turnings	14.00 to	15.00
Mixed boring and turnings	14.00 to	15.00
Shoveling turnings	20.00 to	21.00
Cast iron borings	24.00 to	25.00
Low phos. plate	77.00 to	78.00
Structural and plate 2 ft. and under	78.00 to	79.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	78.00 to	79.00
Scrap rails, random lgth	62.00 to	63.00
No. 1 machinery cast	74.00 to	75.00
No. 1 cupola cast	69.00 to	70.00

St. Louis

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 72.00 to	$ 73.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	57.00 to	58.00
No. 1 busheling	83.00 to	84.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	81.00 to	82.00
No. 2 bundles	51.00 to	52.00
Machine shop turnings	20.00 to	21.00
Shoveling turnings	24.00 to	25.00
Cast iron borings	30.00 to	31.00
No. 1 RR hvy. melting	76.00 to	77.00
Rails, random length	74.00 to	75.00
Rails, 18 in. and under	97.00 to	98.00
RR specialties	81.00 to	82.00
Cupola cast	71.00 to	72.00
Heavy breakable cast	49.00 to	50.00
Stove plate	91.00 to	92.00
Steel car wheels	83.00 to	84.00
Rerolling rails	99.00 to	100.00
Unstripped motor blocks	54.00 to	55.00

Birmingham

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 70.00 to	$ 71.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	66.00 to	67.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	70.00 to	71.00
No. 2 bundles	46.00 to	47.00
No. 1 busheling	70.00 to	71.00
Shredder scrap	88.00 to	89.00
Machine shop turnings	25.00 to	26.00
Shoveling turnings	39.00 to	40.00
Cast iron borings	38.00 to	39.00
Electric furnace bundles	65.00 to	66.00
Elec. furnace, 3 ft. & under	66.00 to	67.00
Structural and plate, 2 ft.	89.00 to	90.00
Structural and plate, 4 ft.	83.00 to	84.00
No. 1 RR hvy. melting	83.00 to	84.00
Scrap rails, random lgth	70.00 to	71.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	87.00 to	88.00
Angles and splice bars	83.00 to	84.00
No. 1 cupola cast	84.00 to	85.00
Unstripped motor blocks	74.00 to	75.00

Cincinnati

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 54.00 to	$ 55.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	53.00 to	54.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	69.00 to	70.00
No. 2 bundles	34.00 to	35.00
Machine shop turnings	9.00 to	10.00
Shoveling turnings	12.00 to	13.00
Cast iron borings	19.00 to	20.00
Low phos. 18 in. and under	77.00 to	78.00
Rails, random length	59.00 to	60.00
Rails, 2 ft. and under	79.00 to	80.00
No. 1 cupola cast	66.00 to	67.00
Heavy breakable cast	27.00 to	28.00
Drop broken cast	72.00 to	73.00

New York

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 44.00 to	$ 45.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	35.00 to	36.00
No. 2 dealer bundles	20.00 to	24.00
Mixed borings and turnings	10.00 to	11.00
Machine shop turnings	4.00 to	6.00
Shoveling turnings	10.00 to	12.00
Clean cast, chem. borings	35.00 to	36.00
No. 1 machinery cast	79.00 to	80.00
Mixed yard cast	50.00 to	51.00
Heavy breakable cast	10.00 to	12.00
Stainless		
18-8 prepared solids	450.00 to	470.00
18-8 turnings	345.00 to	370.00
430 prepared solids	90.00 to	100.00
410 solids	75.00 to	85.00

Boston

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 51.00 to	$ 53.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	41.00 to	43.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	53.00 to	55.00
No. 2 bundles	34.00 to	36.00
No. 1 busheling	59.00 to	61.00
Shredder scrap	61.00 to	63.00
Machine shop turnings	12.00 to	14.00
Shoveling turnings	18.00 to	20.00
No. 1 machinery cast	75.00 to	80.00
Mixed cupola cast	46.00 to	48.00
Heavy breakable cast	8.00 to	10.00

San Francisco

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 43.00 to	$ 45.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	37.00 to	39.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	34.00 to	36.00
No. 2 dealer bundles	22.00 to	24.00
Machine shop turnings	8.00 to	9.00
Cast iron borings	8.00 to	9.00
No. 1 cupola cast	80.00 to	82.00

Los Angeles

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 37.00 to	$ 39.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	31.00 to	33.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	29.00 to	31.00
No. 2 dealer bundles	16.00 to	18.00
Machine shop turnings	9.00 to	10.00
Shoveling turnings	10.00 to	11.00
Cast iron borings	8.00 to	9.00
Elec. furnace, 1 ft. and under (foundry)	70.00 to	72.00
No. 1 cupola cast	72.00 to	74.00

Seattle

No. 1 hvy. melting	60.00 to	62.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	51.00 to	53.00
No. 2 bundles	35.00 to	37.00
No. 1 cupola cast	89.00 to	90.00
Mixed yard cast	80.00 to	82.00

Hamilton, Ont.

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 81.00
No. 2 hvy. melting, cut 2 ft. and under	72.00
No. 1 dealer bundles	87.00
No. 2 bundles	61.00
Mixed steel scrap	59.00
Bush. new fact. prep'd	81.00
Bush. new fact. unprp'd	64.00
Machine shop turnings	34.00
Short steel turnings	34.00
Mixed borings and turnings	19.00
Cast scrap	92.00

Houston

Brokers buying prices per gross ton on cars:

No. 1 hvy. melting	$ 67.00 to	$ 68.00
No. 2 hvy. melting	55.00 to	56.00
No. 2 bundles	38.00 to	39.00
Machine shop turnings	11.00 to	12.00
Crushed turnings	30.00 to	31.00
Shredder scrap	76.00 to	77.00
Cut structural plate, 2 ft. and under	98.00 to	99.00
Cut structural plate, 5 ft. and under	80.00 to	81.00
Unstripped motor blocks	57.00 to	58.00
Cupola cast	85.00 to	86.00

NOT A PRICE ROUT, BUT ALMOST

It looked like a price rout in March. But it wasn't quite that bad. Exclude the continuing collapse in energy goods prices, and the overall price level of industrial goods didn't do anything. Prices didn't go up, and they didn't go down—to any measurable extent.

In the first quarter, the U.S. Labor Dept.'s producer price index for finished goods scored the largest decline for any three-month period since the index was first calculated in 1947. Falling energy prices for the most part accounted for the record drop.

In March, prices of finished energy goods plummeted by 13.4 pct. Those prices fell 9.4 pct in February. Gasoline prices in March fell 21.9 pct, following an 11.1 pct drop in February. Home heating oil prices in March fell 6.0 pct, following an all-time record 26.2 pct decline in the previous month.

Looking beyond energy goods, producer prices in March were still soft. An example is seen in the 22 metalworking product lines listed on the table. During the month, nine had price gains, all modest except in one case. Prices were unchanged for six of the product lines and seven saw declines. So, 13 of the 22 lines of goods experienced either no price changes or had actual declines.

Still, there is a reminder that prices have not yet fallen through the floor. A look at price changes from a year ago shows March prices higher for 20 of the 22 listed product lines.

The price softness through the first quarter was the big-swing force in the economy. The 3.2 pct first quarter advance in GNP was largely the result of lower inflation.

While many cheer all the lower prices, some companies find the great price sag makes life tough for them. Many customers hold off buying, awaiting even lower prices.

Latest Month Covered: March 1986

Products	Index Reading For Month (1967 = 100)	Pct Change From Previous Month	Pct Change From Year-Ago Month
Metal Cutting Machine Tools	399.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.4
Metal Forming Machine Tools	438.4	0	+ 1.4
Agricultural Machinery & Equip.	338.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Construction Machinery & Equip.	365.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Oil and Gas Field Machinery	424.0	0	— 0.8
Industrial Material Handling Equip.	295.3	0	+ 0.4
Pumps, Compressors & Allied Equip.	357.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Mining Machinery & Equipment	381.9	— 0.1	+ 0.9
Mechanical Power Transmission Equip.	342.2	+ 0.4	+ 2.1
Automobiles	229.1	— 0.2	+ 1.1
Motor Trucks—Light	307.3	+ 0.4	+ 4.2
Motor Trucks—Heavy	340.2	0	+ 2.3
Railroad Equipment	364.6	— 0.1	+ 0.5
Fabricated Metal Structural Products	315.1	— 0.2	+ 0.2
Electric Motors	349.3	— 0.1	— 0.1
Valves & Fittings (Dec. 1982 = 100)	106.2	0	+ 1.8
Ball & Roller Bearings	354.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.0
Foundry & Forge Shop Products	364.8	— 0.1	+ 0.6
Heating Equipment	264.7	— 0.1	+ 2.8
Plumbing Fixtures & Brass Fittings	324.6	+ 2.7	+ 5.5
Metal Containers	361.2	0	+ 0.9
Internal Combustion Engines	349.6	+ 0.2	+ 2.9

Data based on U.S. Labor Dept.'s Producer Price Index